

Phase Two Guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Construction Sites

During Phase Two, the public and businesses will be required to adopt behaviors and rigorous safeguards to reduce risk for all. In Phase Two, construction sites can continue to operate with safeguards and physical distancing. **The following measures should be implemented to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission amongst construction site workers, clients, visitors and the community.** For additional information, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo.

Please note that any individual experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or recently exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, should not work at or visit the construction site due to the risk of exposing others. Symptoms of COVID-19 may include: fever (subjective or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or otherwise feeling unwell.

Construction Site Workers and Visitors Should Practice Everyday Prevention Measures

- **Stay at home if you are sick** or were recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Stay at least 6 feet from other people on the site when possible (especially important in enclosed spaces).
- Everyone on site must wear a mask or cloth face covering at all times.
 - If respirators or facemasks are required for the job tasks, those items must still be worn (cloth face coverings are not an appropriate substitute in these cases).
 - Respirators without valves are recommended to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Perform frequent hand hygiene (with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer).
 - Key times to perform hand hygiene include:
 - Before and after work shifts and breaks,
 - After using the toilet,
 - Before eating and before and after preparing food,
 - After touching objects which have been handled by coworkers, such as tools and equipment,
 - Before putting on and after taking off work gloves,
 - Before and after putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings,
 - Before donning or doffing eye or face protection (safety glasses, goggles, etc.), and
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

Employer Considerations to Encourage Employee and Visitor Safety

- Post signage stating that no one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 is permitted to enter the site and that all individuals must wear a mask or face covering.
- Place posters that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and proper hand hygiene practices at entrances to the site and in other work site areas where they are likely to be seen.
- Provide supplies to allow for frequent hand hygiene (e.g., soap and water or alcohol-based

hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol) throughout the construction site.

- Provide employees with access to soap, clean running water, and materials for drying their hands, and provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol at stations around the site for use by both workers and visitors.
- Provide employees with appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., masks, gloves) and cloth face coverings. Gloves should be worn as indicated per routine job responsibilities.
 - Provide face shield or goggles for activities that require close, extended contact with other individuals (<6 feet for more than 15 minutes).
- Plan for office staff to have the ability to work from home.
- Continue use of virtual inspections and other visits by DCRA and third-party providers when possible.
- Minimize any visitors to the construction site.
- Stagger shifts, start times, and break times as much as possible.
- Implement leave policies that are flexible and non-punitive, and that allow sick employees to stay home. Leave policies are recommended to account for the following circumstances:
 - Employees who report COVID-19 symptoms,
 - Employees who were tested for COVID-19 and test results are pending,
 - Employees who tested positive for COVID-19,
 - Employees who are a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19,
 - Employees who need to stay home with their children if there are school or childcare closures, or to care for sick family members.
- Keep abreast of current law, which has amended both the DC Family and Medical Leave Act and the DC Sick and Safe Leave Law and created whole new categories of leave, like Declared Emergency Leave.
- Learn about and inform your employees about COVID-related leave provided through new federal law, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and all applicable District law relating to sick leave.
- Provide employees with accurate information (in a language they understand) about COVID-19, how it spreads, and risk of exposure. Refer to coronavirus.dc.gov for more information.
 - Conduct “toolbox talks” on all job sites to explain the protective measures in place.
 - Continue worker training on previously developed COVID-19 job safety plan.
- Inform and remind subcontractors and suppliers about social distancing, face covering and hand hygiene requirements.
- **For additional information specific to construction sites**, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/construction-workers.html

Avoid Close Contact and Reduce Touchpoints

- Arrange work areas, common areas, break rooms and other areas of the site to ensure at least 6 feet between people. Where work spaces do not allow for 6 feet distancing, employers should take one or more of the following steps:
 - Adjust crew sizes.
 - Adjust work sequences.
 - Confined and enclosed areas (e.g., trailers, small rooms in buildings under construction) should be identified and access should be restricted to essential personnel only.
 - Enclosed spaces (e.g., toilets, break areas) are potential transmission areas and should be treated accordingly. Time spent in these areas should be minimized.

- Implement other adjustments that align with health and safety guidelines.
- Limit tool sharing if possible.
- Install floor decals and visual markers as needed to promote physical distancing in construction site common areas.
- Eliminate high touch items that are not able to be cleaned or disinfected from office and common areas (e.g., magazines, newspapers).
- If undertaking construction projects in spaces where people are living (e.g., remodeling or renovation, retrofitting), make sure the following prevention measures are in place:
 - Ensure good ventilation (e.g., open doors and windows, if possible)
 - Social distancing should be maintained between workers and other people in the space (at least 6 feet away).
 - All present must wear a cloth face covering or mask.
 - If a project requires workers to move between units, they should perform hand hygiene before moving on to next unit.

Screening and Monitoring for Symptoms

- Perform daily screening (e.g., symptom questionnaires) of employees, subcontractors, and visitors to the site daily, prior to entering the construction site, over the phone or in person.
 - For **Screening Tool Guidance**, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance
- Individuals who report symptoms should not enter the site.
- Post signage at the entrance(s) to inform employees, subcontractors and visitors of screening procedures and not to enter if they feel unwell.
- If an employee or subcontractor develops any symptoms of COVID-19 during the workday, there should be a plan in place for that individual to immediately isolate, notify their supervisor, and leave the construction site.
- Maintain a daily record of individuals who have been at the construction site for at least 30 days when possible to facilitate contact tracing

Clean and Disinfect

- The business should have a comprehensive plan for cleaning and disinfecting high traffic and high touch surface areas (e.g., machines, vehicles and other equipment, handrails, ladders, doorknobs, and portable toilets) routinely throughout the day.
- If surfaces are visibly dirty, they should be cleaned with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- At a minimum, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at the beginning and end of each shift.
- Clean and disinfect any shared vehicle or equipment before each use.
- For more information about cleaning and disinfecting public spaces and disinfectants that are effective against the virus that causes COVID-19, visit the CDC website: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html

Establish a Plan for COVID-19 Exposure

- Establish a plan in the event that an employee or visitor to the site is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Identify a point of contact at the business that an employee can notify if they test positive for COVID-19 and choose to disclose this information.
- If an employee chooses to report to the business that they are positive for COVID-19, the business should have a notification process to share the following with staff:
 - Education about COVID-19, including the signs and symptoms of COVID-19

- Referral to the Guidance for Contacts of a Person Confirmed to have COVID-19, available at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance
- Information on options for COVID-19 testing in the District of Columbia, available at coronavirus.dc.gov/testing
- Businesses should notify DC Health when:
 - An employee notifies the business they **tested positive for COVID-19** (not before results come back)
AND
 - the employee interacts frequently with visitors to the site
OR
 - if a visitor notifies the business they tested positive for COVID-19.
- Notify DC Health by submitting an online form on the DC Health COVID-19 Reporting Requirements website dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements:
 - Submit a **Non-Healthcare Facility COVID-19 Consult Form**.
- An investigator from DC Health will follow-up within 48 hours to all appropriately submitted notifications.

These recommendations will continue to be updated. Please visit coronavirus.dc.gov for the most updated information.